

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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Under the post 9/11 GI Bill, only those National Guard members who serve on a federal mission (such as in Iraq or Afghanistan) are eligible for higher education benefits, leaving thousands of California National Guard members who serve closer to home without such benefits. California is currently the only state in the nation that has yet to close this gap and offer a higher education incentive to reward and retain its citizen soldiers.

Senate Bill 815 (Cogdill) will establish the California National Guard (CNG) Education Assistance Program, making available \$3.6 million to help approximately 1,300 guard members pay tuition and some fees at California's universities and community colleges. To qualify for this benefit, a CNG member would be required to be: a California resident and a two-year active member of the CNG, State Military Reserve or the Naval Militia.

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MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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Senate Bill 815 (Cogdill) represents an excellent opportunity for California to invest in its future by assisting those citizens who serve the state. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Adjutant General of the California National Guard, Major General William Wade II, and the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers are all in support of this legislation.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Support Senate Bill 815; and,
- 2) Send a letter, signed by the Board of Supervisors, to all Los Angeles County state legislative representatives, members of the Senate Appropriations committee and Governor Schwarzenegger urging support of this bill.

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MDA:dmh